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SOURCE [redacted]

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[redacted] of the 287th Rifle Regiment held at the officers' club. On the agenda for discussion was the organization of winter training which was scheduled to start on 1 December 1953. At this meeting the regimental CO, Col. CHERNYSHEVICH, said that the regiment had received manuals on atomic warfare and advised us very strongly to become familiar with these manuals; this was recommended to be done as soon as possible so we would be able to conduct atomic defense training of EM during the coming winter training period. The CO briefly explained that atomic warfare had revolutionized military doctrines, and that it was therefore extremely important for [redacted] Soviet officers, to understand correctly the special characteristics of atomic warfare. Not omitting an opportunity to insert propaganda in his talk, the CO said there was no doubt that the US was feverishly preparing for atomic warfare and that the US would use atomic weapons in the next war against the USSR.

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[redacted] six different atomic warfare manuals (Nastavleniya) had been received at the 287th Rifle Regiment in November 1953; they had been published by the Ministry of Defense, Department of Combat Readiness (Boyevoy Podgotovki) in Moscow. [redacted] do not remember whether these manuals were signed by Defense Minister Marshal BULGANIN or by one of his first deputies (Marshal VASILEVSKIY or Marshal ZHUKOV).

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3.

[redacted] through which channels the atomic warfare manuals were issued [redacted] like all other secret and top secret manuals, they came from Moscow to the Central Group of Forces (TsGV) Headquarters and from there were sent through normal channels; that is, they were forwarded to the regiments through army and divisional headquarters.

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4. [] the exact date that the atomic warfare manuals arrived at the regiment. However, since at the end of November and beginning of December 1953 strong pressure was exerted over the officers to familiarize themselves with the contents of these manuals and to be prepared for the winter training period with EM, [] that they arrived at the regiment late in November 1953.

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5. Five of these manuals were classified top secret; the sixth bore the classification of secret. [] there were six atomic warfare manuals [] because they were marked by consecutive numbers 1 - 6 for the purpose of registration in the Regimental Secret Documents Section (Sekretnaya chast'). No 6 was Sergeants and Soldiers Atomic Defense Handbook [see below]. This was the only atomic warfare manual that was classified secret and issued to each company of the regiment. [] the remaining five manuals were top secret: [] three of them which were top secret. On one [] tactical doctrines in connection with atomic warfare, [] chief of the Secret Documents Section whether there was any kind of atomic warfare manual dealing with tactics. [] it was available only to senior officers.

6.

- a. The Armed Forces Atomic Warfare Defense Manual (Nastavleniye o protivatomnoy zashchite voysk) which was a booklet approximately 10 x 14 cm., one centimeter thick, bound in a light brown cardboard cover.
- b. The Atomic Warfare Fortification Manual (Nastavleniye o inzhenernom oborudovanii v usloviyakh primeneniya atomnogo oruzhiya). I do not remember the size or color of this book.
- c. The Atomic Warfare Medical Treatment and Deactivation Manual (Nastavleniye o dezaktivatsii i sanitarnoy obrabotke voysk ot radioaktivnykh veshchestv). This, [] was the manual which was usually referred to in the regiment as Manual No. 3. It was 15 x 20 cm., 1½ cm. thick, bound in a light blue paper cover.

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7. The above three manuals had a printed stamp "Top Secret" (Sovershenno sekretno) in the upper right corner and the title of the book in the middle of the cover. The three described above plus the two more top secret atomic warfare manuals [] they could not be issued to company grade officers, were kept in the safe of the Regimental Secret Documents Section. (The Chief of the Regimental Secret Documents Section was M/Sgt. (Starshina) PONOMAREV, and there was one clerk on duty who was a private). [] were available both of the two remaining top secret manuals [] only to senior officers, namely, the regimental commander, his chief of staff, and officers of equivalent position. The first three top secret manuals however, could be issued to company grade officers, but not taken out of the Secret Documents Section. Studying of these three manuals had to be done in the Secret Documents room. No notes of any kind could be taken while studying these three manuals.

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9. Then again, on another occasion at the beginning of December 1953, the regimental medical officer gave a lecture for the officers on atomic warfare. On this occasion he gave us some information which [redacted] had not been in any of the three top secret or the one secret atomic warfare manuals [redacted]. In this connection, [redacted] he mentioned the term catalyst (katalizator); [redacted] either an element or a substance used as a component of an atomic bomb for the purpose of speeding up the decomposition (raspadeniye) of atoms to cause the explosion.

10. The sixth atomic warfare defense manual, classified secret, had the title Sergeants and Soldiers Atomic Defense Handbook (Pamyatka soldatu i serzhantov o zashchite ot atomnogo oruzhiya). This was a booklet 15 x 20 cm. in size, with 24 or 28 pages, bound in a blue paper cover. This manual was kept in the company CO's strong box which was guarded 24 hours a day by the CQ. It could be taken for study purposes by officers and NCO's upon giving a signed receipt.

11. [redacted] the dates of publication of the atomic warfare manuals. [redacted] what designations the manuals had, such as number or short title. [redacted] there were some numbers on the covers in the upper right corner. [redacted] the Sergeants and Soldiers Atomic Defense Handbook had the inscription "Egz" (the abbreviation for "copy" /Egzempliar/) in the upper right corner and also a number.

12. [redacted] there were several copies of each top secret atomic warfare manual in the Regimental Secret Documents Section, [redacted] several officers studying the same manuals independently. [redacted] more than three or at the most four copies of a manual being used at the same time. [redacted] believe that the top secret manuals, or at least those available to junior officers, were issued to the regiment in three or four copies. The Sergeants and Soldiers Atomic Defense Handbook was issued to each company-size unit of the regiment; this meant there were at least 24 copies, since there were 24 company-size units in my regiment.

13. [redacted] discussion by senior officers concerning the manuals which were not available to company grade officers. [redacted] conditions existed in this respect in other regiments, but in the 287th Rifle Regiment senior officers kept away from junior officers and did not mix [redacted] except on official business. [redacted] senior officers had their own officers' mess.

14. For registry purposes, the atomic warfare manuals in the 287th Rifle Regiment were numbered 1 - 6 and were referred to as Instruction (Posobiye) 1, 2, 3, etc. [redacted] believe that the numbers were part of the official titles of the manuals, but rather [redacted] were given in the Secret Documents Section solely for convenience of handling.

15. [redacted] if the atomic warfare manuals were to remain in the regiment, or if they were to be returned to a higher headquarters after a certain period of time. [redacted] the usual procedure was that all manuals allocated to the regiment became regimental property; probably that was also the case with the atomic warfare manuals.

16. Almost all of these six manuals had the same introduction giving a definition of the atom, the concept of an atomic explosion and its use for war purposes, types and characteristics of atomic weapons and such basic information.

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17. [redacted] there were no manuals on modern warfare other than on atomic warfare. [redacted] manuals on tactics, new equipment, etc., which were available for study during the winter training period 1953-1954. 50X1
18. There was little or no discussion among officers on the material in the atomic warfare manuals, and [redacted] any serious opinions given by individual officers on atomic warfare. The general attitude of the officers towards the atomic warfare manuals and defense against atomic weapons could be described as "disinterested". Very often remarks were made, the general meaning of which could be briefly summarized as: "What's the use of study. There's no defense against atomic weapons anyway!" 50X1 50X1
19. [redacted] the term "atomic energy" appeared in the atomic warfare manuals; only atomic weapons were mentioned. [redacted] whether the manuals mentioned or discussed atomic targets in the deep rear. 50X1
20. [redacted] the manuals did not contain specifications on the level or command which would be responsible for the use of atomic weapons. 50X1
21. [redacted] any statement indicating that atomic weapons would be assigned to or employed by special units only. 50X1
22. [redacted] indicating that there were atomic warfare manuals written for any special branch of the Soviet army. The manuals seemed to have been written as standard manuals for all Soviet armed forces. 50X1
23. [redacted] the manuals contained military instructions or principles governing use of atomic weapons, [redacted] mention of atomic artillery. [redacted] positive statement contained in the manuals indicating that atomic weapons would definitely be used in the event of war. However, the conclusion that atomic weapons would be used would have been made by anyone reading the manuals. Furthermore, the idea that the US would use atomic weapons in a future war against the USSR was one of the main official propaganda topics in the Soviet army. However, no statement was ever made that the USSR would wage an atomic war, although there was no doubt that it would do so in retaliation. [redacted] one lecture given to regimental officers by the CG of the 95th Rifle Division in November or December 1953 in which he mentioned that the Soviet armed forces have a large fleet of bombers at their disposal, capable of delivering atomic bombs from the USSR to any city in the US without refueling en route, and that they also had atomic guided missiles of a practically unlimited range of action able to reach an altitude of 180 km. 50X1
24. Further descriptions of the individual atomic warfare manuals and of atomic defense training conducted in the Soviet Army will be published as follows: 50X1
- a. Soviet Armed Forces Atomic Warfare Defense Manual:
 - b. Soviet Atomic Warfare Fortification Manual:
 - c. Soviet Atomic Warfare Medical Treatment and Deactivation: [redacted]
 - d. Sergeants and Soldiers Atomic Defense Handbook (Soviet [redacted])
 - e. Soviet Army Atomic Defense Training: [redacted]

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